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BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR

Tony Stark is a technological visionary... a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Stark has valiantly protected the innocent as an invincible bright knight known as IRON MAN. But an epic battle with the psychic-powered Red Skull altered Stark's mind.

With a more arrogant and devious personality surfacing, Tony has used San Francisco as a testing ground for the Extremis 3.0 App. It can improve a person's life, making them more attractive, smarter and healthy... But it comes at a cost and not everyone can afford it. The population is divided into two: mere humans and those who are superior.

Daredevil doesn't like what it's doing to his city...

CHAPTER 2: DAREDEVIL VS. IRON MAN

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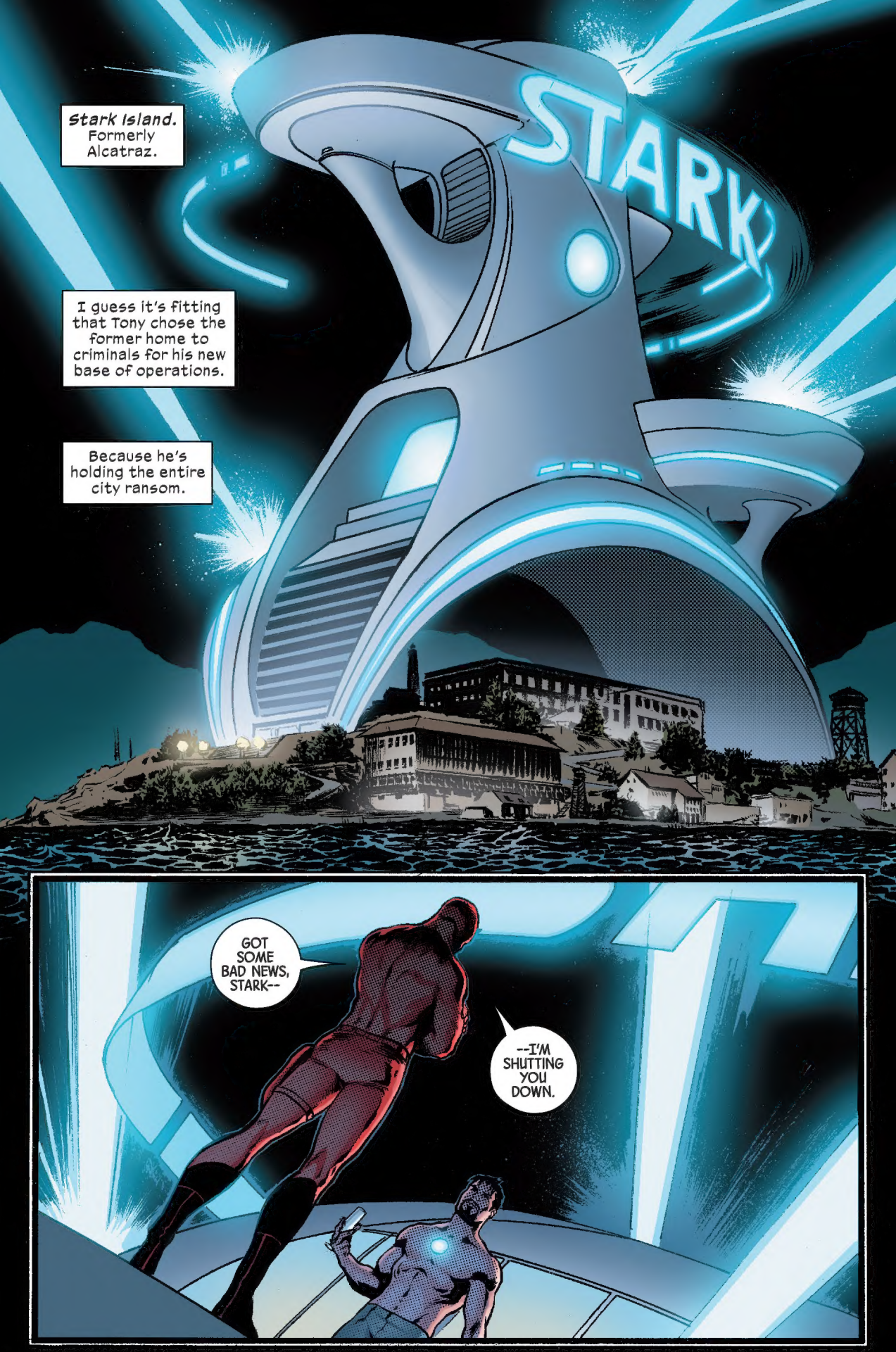
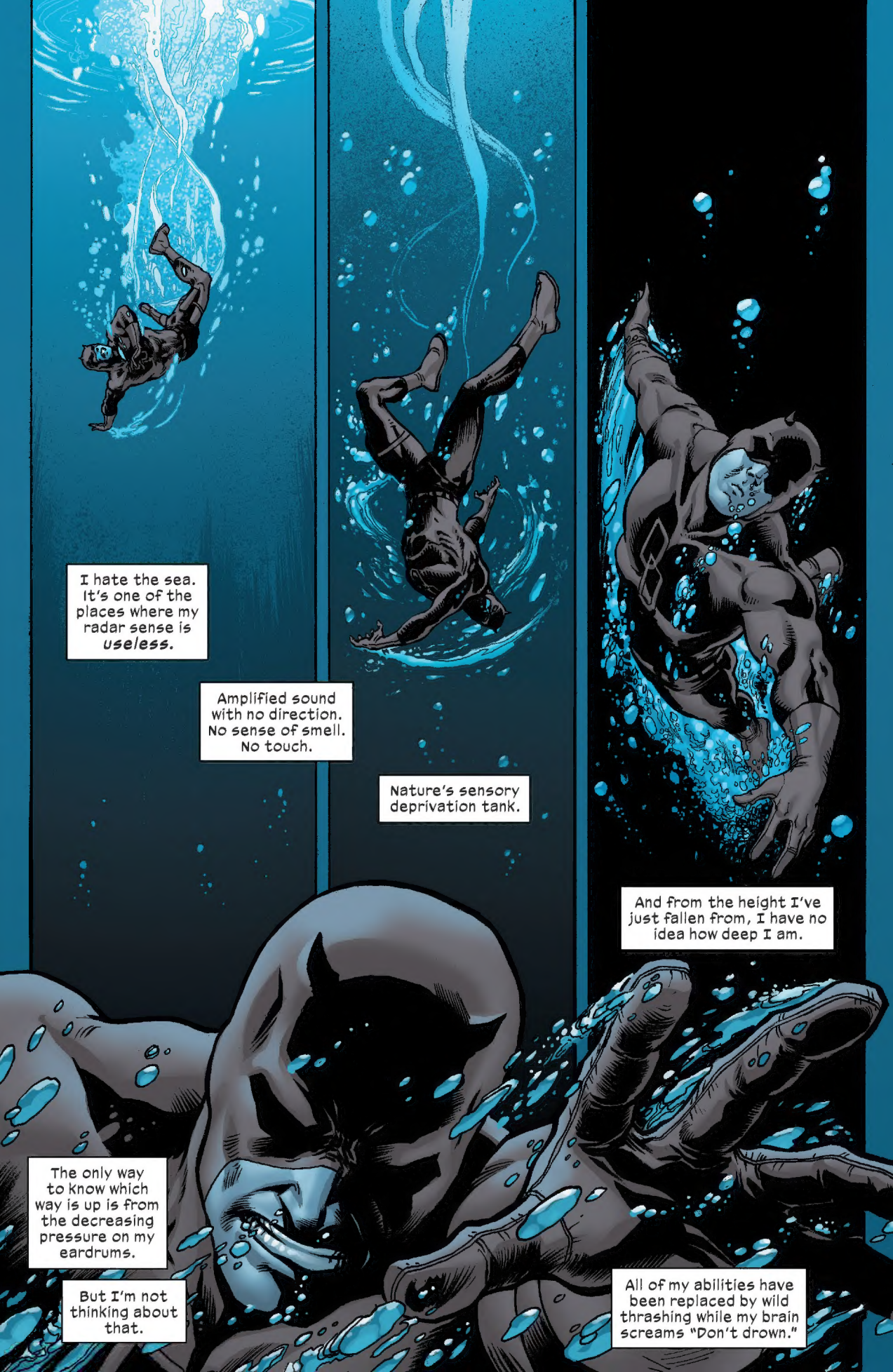
Tony Stark gifted a new Extremis app to the people of San Francisco. *Perfection*--downloadable through any smart phone.
But it wasn't a *gift*. It was just a *taste*.
He tore it away, and he made his utopia prohibitively expensive.
Those who couldn't afford it were desperate to get it back, and desperate people--
DON'T SCREAM.
--do desperate things.
JUST GIVE ME YOUR DAMN BAG.
NO... I NEED IT.
The kid's heart is beating so hard that I could hear it without enhanced senses. He's more scared than the woman he's mugging.
PLEASE.
I SERIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
I JUST--
FWIP
AGH!

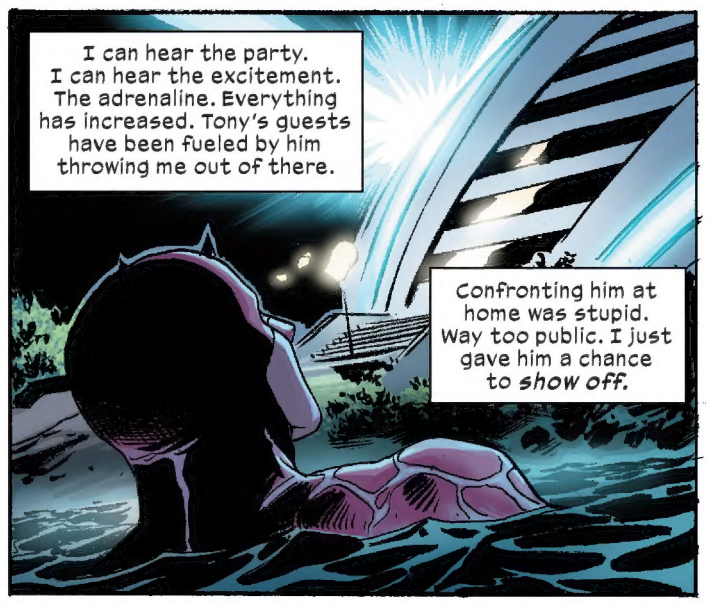
DAREDEVIL!
HNF!
HNG.
YOU SEE THIS? I'M INTERNET FAMOUS AND THIS IS GOING TO BE ONLINE IN THIRTY SECONDS, YOU ****!
NO. PLEASE.
YOUR LIFE IS OVER.
FLASH
NO BULLETS.
NO. I'D NEVER...
MY DAD IS GOING TO KILL ME.
Crime is running rampant throughout the city. Lives are being ruined.
It's time Tony Stark and I discussed his "Utopia."

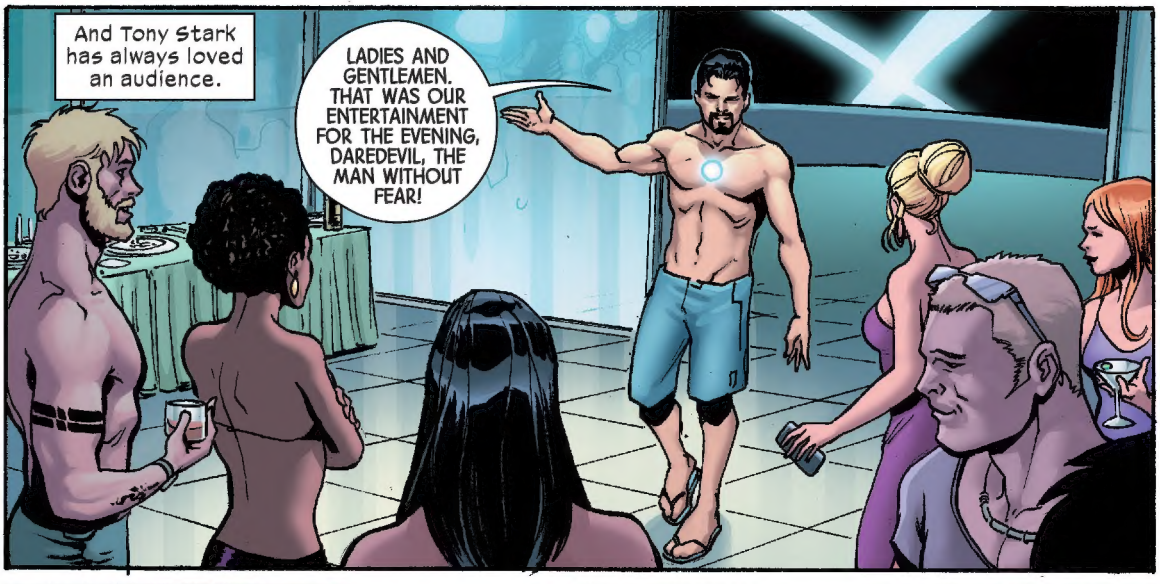

Stark Island. Formerly Alcatraz.
I guess it's fitting that Tony chose the former home to criminals for his new base of operations.
Because he's holding the entire city ransom.
STARK
GOT SOME BAD NEWS, STARK--
--I'M SHUTTING YOU DOWN.

I WON'T HOLD THIS LITTLE OUTBURST AGAINST YOU.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME. BUT IF YOU DO COME BACK...
...COAT-CHECK THE ATTITUDE.
Right. Well--
--that could have gone better.
SPSSSHHH


I hate the sea. It's one of the places where my radar sense is *useless.*
Amplified sound with no direction. No sense of smell. No touch.
Nature's sensory deprivation tank.
And from the height I've just fallen from, I have no idea how deep I am.
The only way to know which way is up is from the decreasing pressure on my eardrums.
But I'm not thinking about that.
All of my abilities have been replaced by wild thrashing while my brain screams "Don't drown."

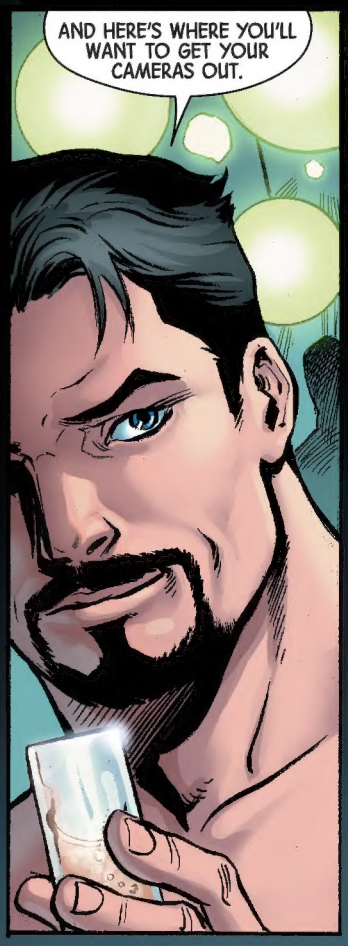
HUUURGH!

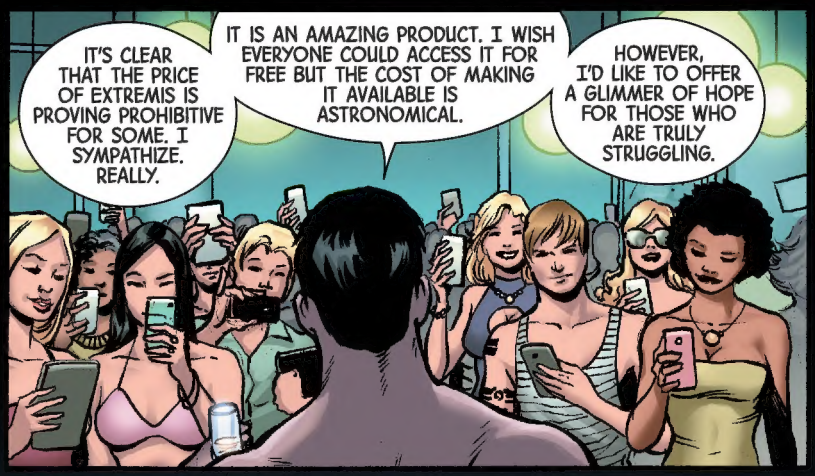

I can hear the party. I can hear the excitement. The adrenaline. Everything has increased. Tony's guests have been fueled by him throwing me out of there.
Confronting him at home was stupid. Way too public. I just gave him a chance to *show off.*

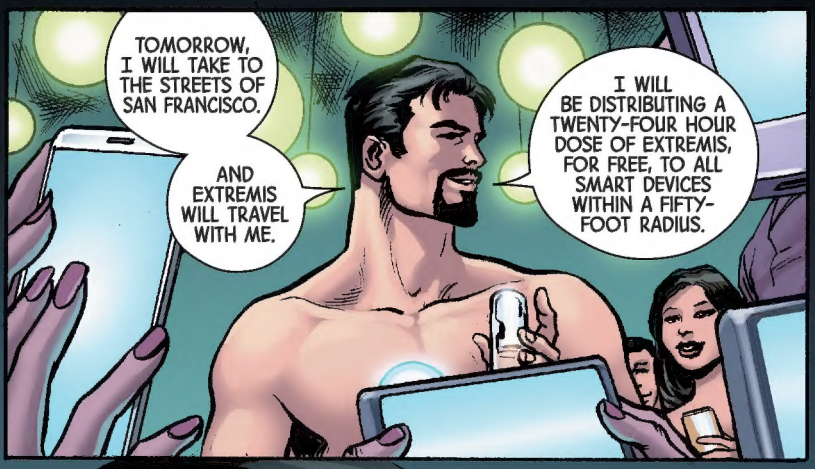

And Tony Stark has always loved an audience.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THAT WAS OUR ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE EVENING, DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

THOUGH I HAVE TO SAY, FOR A *"MAN WITHOUT FEAR,"* AS HE WAS FALLING THROUGH THE AIR, HE LOOKED JUST A TEENSY-BIT WORRIED.

NOW, OUR PARTY-CRASHER WENT ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY, BUT HE WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN THAT THERE IS AN ISSUE, AND I'M NOT UNSYMPATHETIC.


AND HERE'S WHERE YOU'LL WANT TO GET YOUR CAMERAS OUT.


IT'S CLEAR THAT THE PRICE OF EXTREMIS IS PROVING PROHIBITIVE FOR SOME. I SYMPATHIZE. REALLY.
IT IS AN AMAZING PRODUCT. I WISH EVERYONE COULD ACCESS IT FOR FREE BUT THE COST OF MAKING IT AVAILABLE IS ASTRONOMICAL.
HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO OFFER A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE TRULY STRUGGLING.


TOMORROW, I WILL TAKE TO THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO.
AND EXTREMIS WILL TRAVEL WITH ME.
I WILL BE DISTRIBUTING A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DOSE OF EXTREMIS, FOR FREE, TO ALL SMART DEVICES WITHIN A FIFTY-FOOT RADIUS.

I WILL BE YOUR MAGNANIMOUS SHINING HUB OF HOPE.
TOMORROW. ON CASTRO STREET. AT MIDDAY.

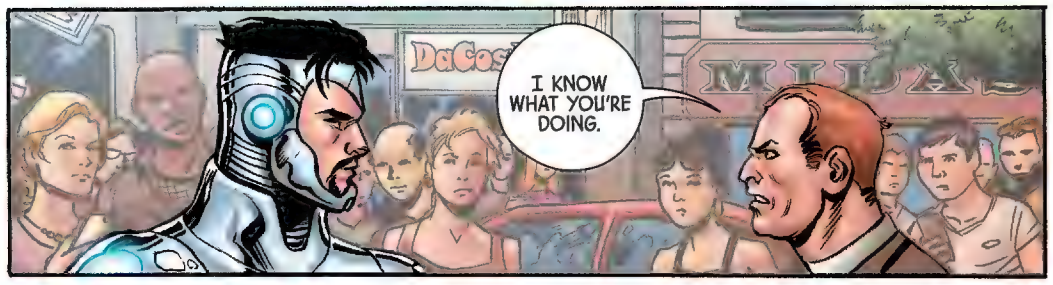
THE NEXT DAY.
CASTRO STREET...

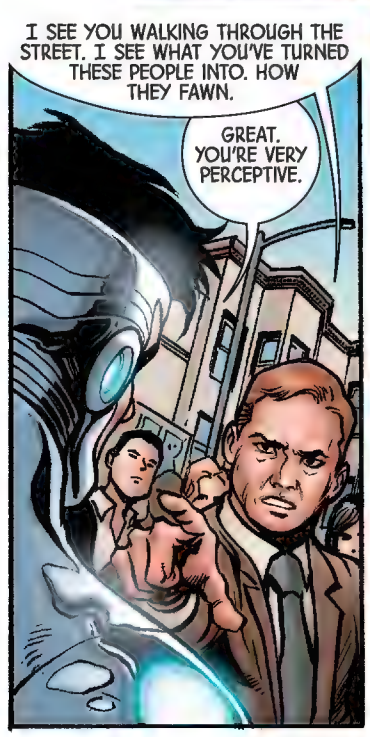
...TWO AND A HALF HOURS AFTER MIDDAY.

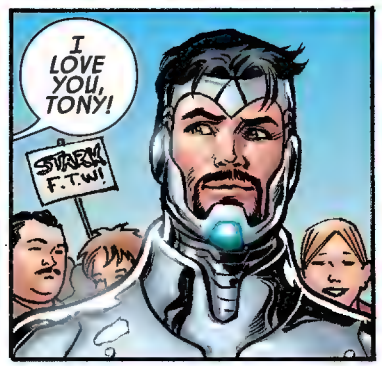
A COUPLE OF RULES. I KNOW THIS IS VERY EXCITING BUT I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU TRIED NOT TO TRAMPLE THOSE AROUND YOU.

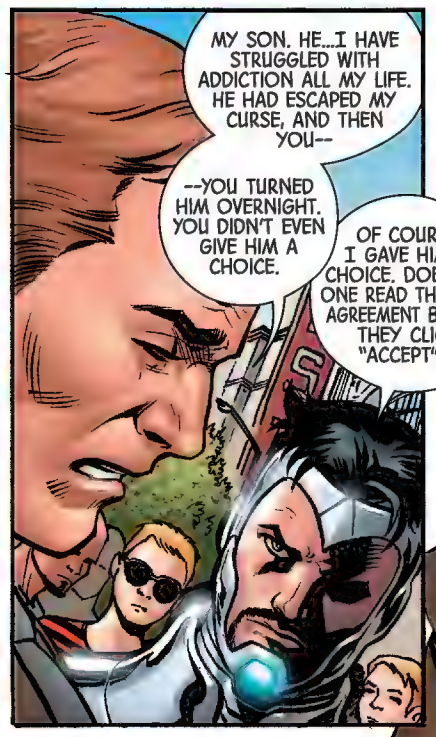
IT'S HARD TO BE A SHINING HUB OF HOPE WHEN PEOPLE ARE *SCREAMING.*

ALSO-- SCREAMING-- NONE OF THAT.









BANG

OH--
I ♥ TONY

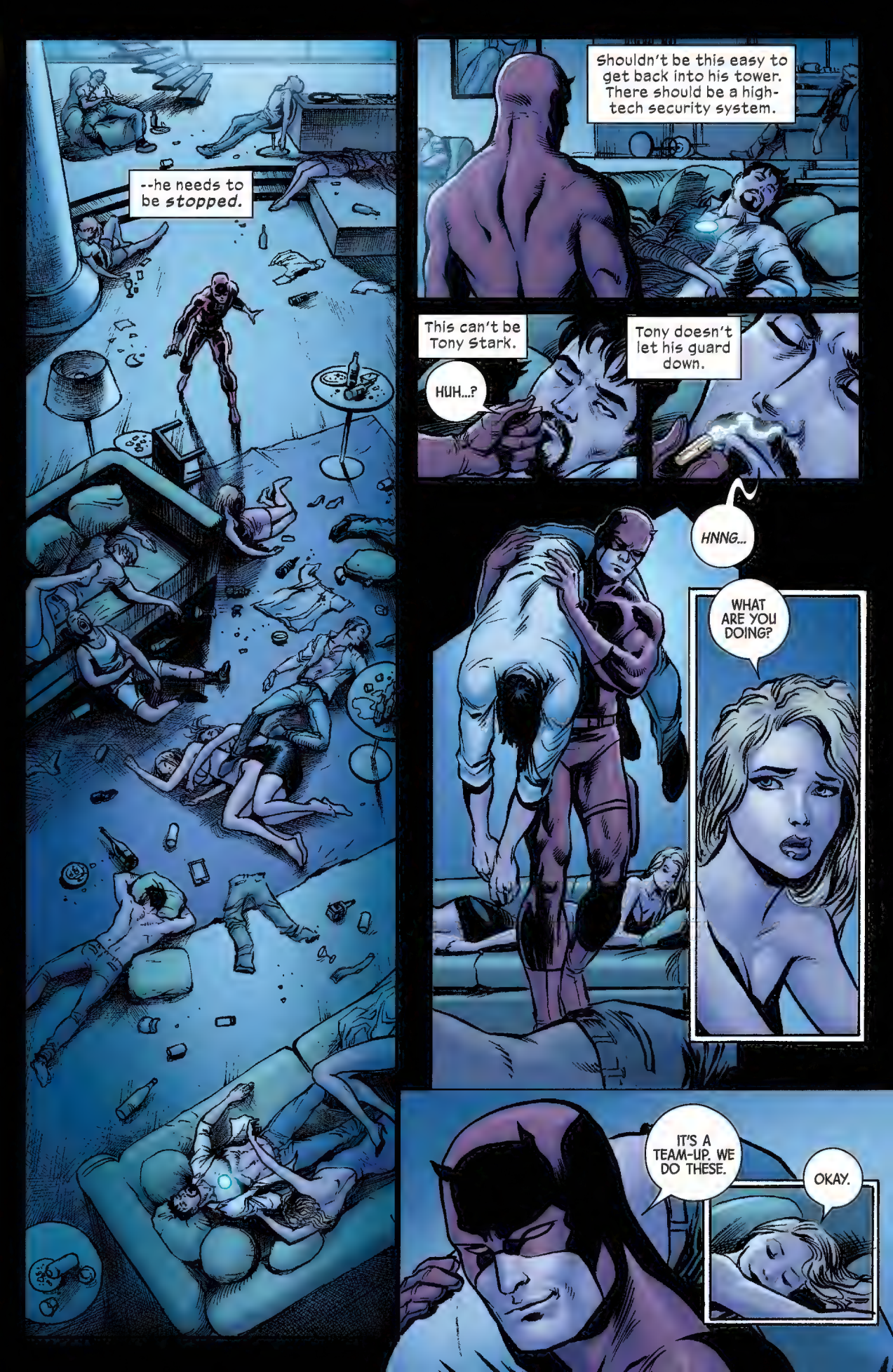
NO!
TAKE HIM DOWN!

WHA--

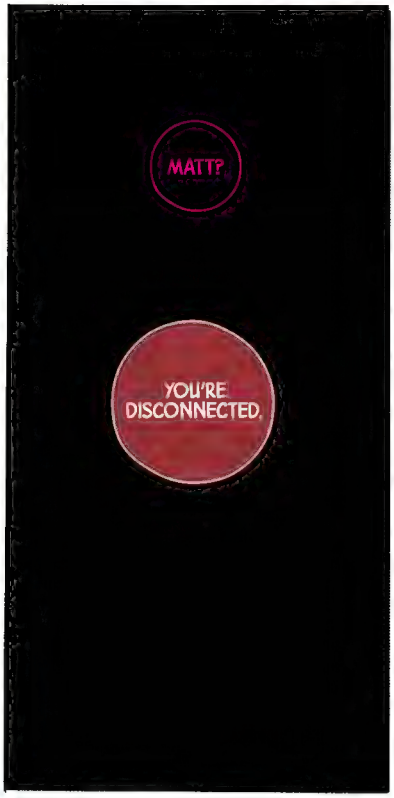
WHAT...?
IT'S CALLED GRAPHENE. STRONGER THAN MOST STEELS. TRANSPARENT.
I CAN'T BE COVERING MY FACE ALL THE TIME.
HOW COULD I DENY THE WORLD ALL OF *THIS?*
NOW, SHOOTING ME IN THE HEAD I CAN FORGIVE. NO HARM DONE.
BUT YOU ATTACKED MY PRODUCT IN PUBLIC, AND THAT'S SOMETHING I *CANNOT* ALLOW.
WE'RE GOING TO FIX THIS.
YOUR NAME IS... DAVID BRAY.
YOUR SON'S NAME IS...

...SIMON.
AH. I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE SO CONCERNED.
A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, HE HELD A WOMAN AT GUNPOINT. SHE POSTED AN IMAGE ONLINE AND IT'S SPREADING FAST ACROSS ALL SOCIAL NETWORKS.
SIMON LOOKS SCARED IN THIS PHOTO.
I CAN SEE THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE.
I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS PICTURE GO AWAY. THERE'LL BE NO TRACE OF IT ONLINE. I'LL EVEN ERASE IT FROM THE PHONE OF THE WOMAN WHO TOOK IT.
BUT YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO COME BACK DOWN THERE WITH ME. WE'RE GOING TO TELL PEOPLE IT WAS ALL PART OF THE SHOW. YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY QUIET AND SMILE VERY WIDE.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE EXTREMIS.
NO... PLEASE. I DON'T WANT--
DAVID. BE SMART. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT OF THIS.
YOU'VE JUST TRIED TO KILL ME IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, AND THEIR CAMERAS. YOUR SON IS IN TROUBLE. I CAN MAKE THAT SITUATION MUCH WORSE FOR HIM.
ALSO--

--IT'S A VERY LONG WAY DOWN.
YOU BASTARD.
Congratulations on being close to Tony! Enjoy 24 hours of E mis for f ust click "Accept".
DEET
THERE. WAS THAT SO HARD?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
INCREDIBLE.
DAMN STRAIGHT.
NOW SMILE.
No one else heard their conversation.
But I heard every word--

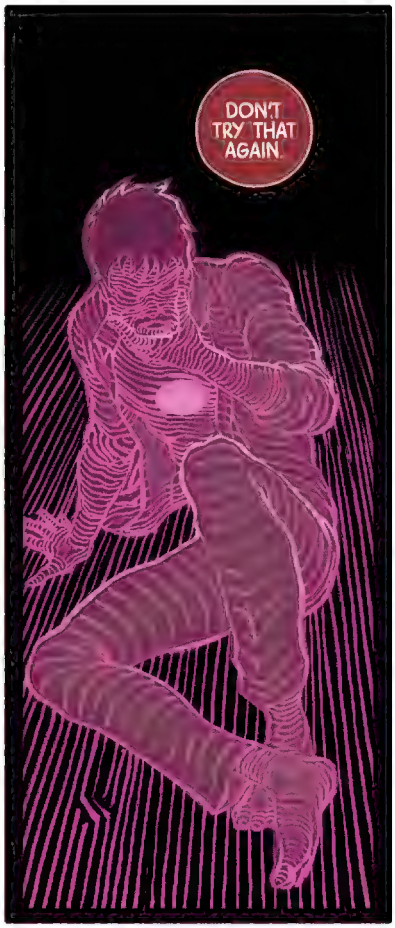

--he needs to be *stopped.*
Shouldn't be this easy to get back into his tower. There should be a high-tech security system.
This can't be Tony Stark.
HUH...?
Tony doesn't let his guard down.
HNNG...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S A TEAM-UP. WE DO THESE.
OKAY.

NOWHERE.
HNNG.


MATT?
YOU'RE DISCONNECTED.

A SMALL E.M.P.
WE'RE DEEP UNDERGROUND AND SHIELDED. NO SIGNAL IS GETTING IN OR OUT OF HERE. NO LOCATING DEVICES CAN TRACK YOU HERE. YOUR ARMOR ISN'T COMING FOR YOU.

WHY? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH OF YOU IS STILL IN THERE.



YOU'RE IN MY WORLD NOW, TONY.

AND YOU'RE STAYING HERE UNTIL THE EXTREMIS HAS RUN ITS COURSE. UNTIL THE CITY'S ADDICTION IS DONE AND ITS REHABILITATION HAS BEGUN.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE EXTREMIS DOWNLOADS WON'T CONTINUE WITHOUT ME?

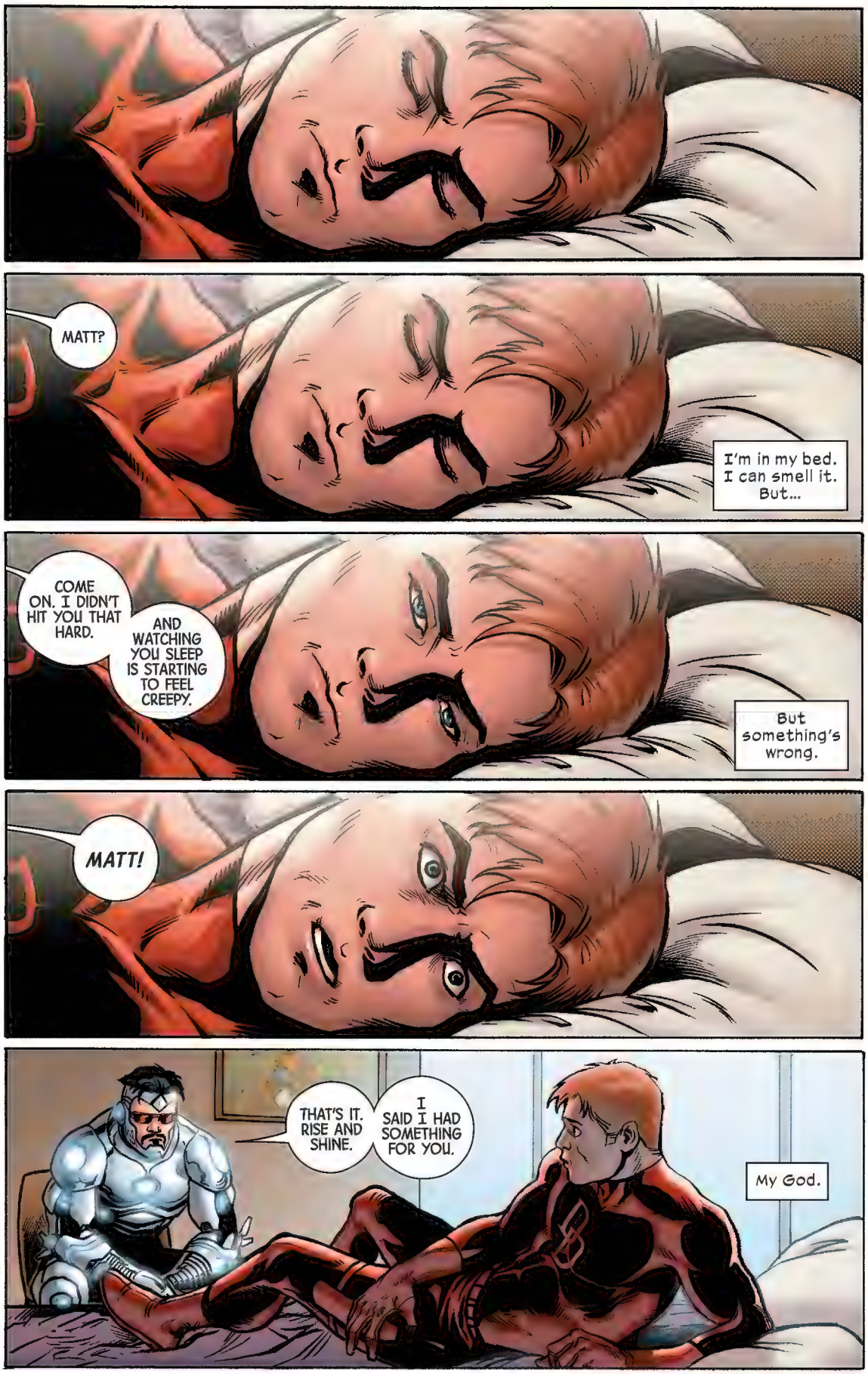
BECAUSE YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING. I DON'T THINK YOU'D LET IT RUN AUTOMATICALLY. YOU NEED TO BE IN CONTROL.

THAT'S PRETTY INSIGHTFUL.

SO, ASK YOURSELF: IF I LIKE CONTROL SO MUCH, WHY WOULD I LET YOU TAKE ME SO EASILY?

YOU THINK I DIDN'T SCAN FOR YOU IN THE CROWD YESTERDAY?
YOU HONESTLY THINK I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D COME FOR ME AGAIN?
BEING BLIND, YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THAT I SEE *EVERYTHING.*
TAKING OUT THE ELECTRONICS. REMOVING ME FROM ALL SIGNALS. THAT WAS VERY CLEVER.
BUT IT'S NOT JUST ELECTRIC SIGNALS ANYMORE. TECHNOLOGY HAS TO MOVE BEYOND THAT.
SYMBIOTIC BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY.
IT'S GOT A LITTLE BIT OF ME IN IT.
IT'S ALIVE, MATT.
I CAN *FEEL* IT.
IT CAN *FEEL ME.*
KNOCK. KNOCK.
KOOOOOOOOM

YOU SEE, I WANTED YOU TO COME FOR ME.
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
CHZZZZ
THD


MATT?
I'm in my bed. I can smell it. But...
COME ON. I DIDN'T HIT YOU THAT HARD.
AND WATCHING YOU SLEEP IS STARTING TO FEEL CREEPY.
But something's wrong.
MATT!
THAT'S IT. RISE AND SHINE.
I SAID I HAD SOMETHING FOR YOU.
My God.

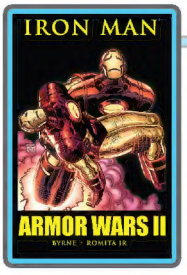
I can see.
NEXT ISSUE: THE CHOICE.

EDITOR'S PICKS

IRON MAN: ARMOR WARS TPB

Millionaire industrialist Tony Stark is an inventive genius who has dedicated all of his enormous financial and intellectual resources to a single guiding principle: the creation of technology for the betterment of humanity. Stark's greatest creation is a modern-day miracle: a suit of form-fitting, strength-enhancing, steel-mesh armor he dons to become the living symbol of his ideals, the Invincible Iron Man! But when Stark discovers that the same technology he used to create the Iron Man armor – technology so secret he didn't even dare patent it – is now in the hands of several deadly super-villains, he feels responsible for the evil they have done with the high-tech tools he unwittingly provided. In the face of objections from his government, friends, colleagues and fellow super heroes, Stark swears to use the power of Iron Man to bring the evil to an end – and to take back what's his. The Beatle, Stilt Man, the Controller, Stingray, the Mandroids, the Guardsmen and Firepower don't know it yet, but they've got a problem. The world's most powerful force for good isn't playing by the rules anymore. And he's coming for them.

Collecting *Iron Man #225-232* – written by David Michelinie and Bob Layton; and illustrated by Mark Bright, Layton and Barry Windsor-Smith.



IRON MAN: ARMOR WARS II TPB

Iron Man faces challenges he never even dreamed of! When industrial villains Kearson Dewitt and the Marrs twins seize control of Tony Stark's central nervous system, he finds himself inexplicably paralyzed and suffering memory loss amid deadly battles with the Living Laser — who is stronger, and crazier, than ever before! Meanwhile, with the help of Fin Fang Foom and his race of dragons, the Mandarin learns his true potential, and that of his ten rings of power! Guest-starring Jim Rhodes and Wonder Man!

Collecting *Iron Man #258-266*, written by John Byrne and illustrated by John Romita Jr.

IRON MAN VOL. 1: BELIEVE TPB

A new era for Tony Stark from the best-selling Uncanny X-Men creative team! Tony Stark is Iron Man — technological visionary, wealthy playboy, unparalleled engineer and armored Avenger. But now, the Iron Man armor's most powerful upgrade has become the world's greatest danger: The lethal techno-virus Extremis is out in the wild! Tony's hunt for the rogue Extremis Units takes him to New Camelot, where he clashes with the mech-knights called the Circle and dogfights the Russian Black Exoskeleton Academy; to Colombia, where he battles old foes Vibro, Firebrand and the Living Laser; and to the ancient catacombs of Paris, where absolute horror awaits — and Tony may have to betray an old friend! Introducing Iron Man's stealth armor, heavy-duty battle-suit and space armor as Tony creates new suits to tackle new challenges! If he wants to save the world from his own deadly nano-virus, Iron Man must act fast — and Tony Stark must build faster!

Collecting *Iron Man (2012) #1-5*, written by Kieron Gillen and illustrated by Greg Land.

IRON MAN VOL. 2: THE SECRET ORIGIN OF TONY STARK BOOK 1 TPB

Iron Man — in space! Picture this: Tony Stark. In a bar. With ladies. What could go wrong? Even as he embarks on a hero's journey throughout the stars, the Armored Avenger must reap the surprising consequences of his role in Avengers vs. X-Men! Then, the story that will shake Iron Man to his very core starts here! Many years ago, Howard and Maria Stark had a baby — but there's something you don't know. Learn the truth about Las Vegas and Area 51 as the two great myths of Nevada collide. Meanwhile, in a distant galaxy, Tony Stark screams!

Collecting *Iron Man (2012) #6-11* — written by Kieron Gillen, and illustrated by Greg Land and Dale Eaglesham.

IRON MAN VOL. 3: THE SECRET ORIGIN OF TONY STARK BOOK 2 TPB

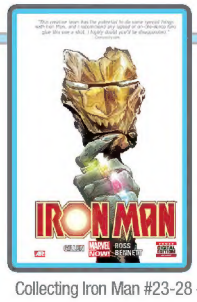
Prepare for more mind-blowing revelations as the shocking secret origin of Tony Stark continues! And it began with a birth! As the manipulative alien 451's ulterior motive is laid bare, a massive surprise awaits Tony in a deserted battlefield from the beginning of time. Now all Iron Man has to do is fight a robot who can take over his armor at any time and evade one of the universe's greatest bounty-hunters: Death's Head! An impossible choice at the edge of space will decide the fate of two worlds. Who lives? Who dies? Can Tony somehow find a way to avoid his destiny before it all goes wrong? Tony and 451 both discover the surprising truth — and things change forever!

Collecting *Iron Man (2012) #12-17* — written by Kieron Gillen; and illustrated by Dale Eaglesham, Greg Land, Carlo Pagulayan and Mahmud Asrar.

IRON MAN VOL. 4: IRON METROPOLITAN PREMIERE HC

To build or to destroy. Tony Stark has returned from space with a vision of a better world. But who is his secret ally? Tony mysteriously shrugs his crime-fighting duties onto P.E.P.P.E.R. and focuses his energies on the grand unveiling of Troy, Tony's Iron Metropolitan city of tomorrow! What could go wrong? Well, Pepper could meet P.E.P.P.E.R., or discover Tony's family secret — or both! And if the Mandarin is truly dead, then who is Mandarin-Seven: Red Peril — and how did they get the villain's rings? As the Iron Phalanx attacks and the skies burn red above Troy, Iron Man investigates the Mandarins. Meanwhile, Red Peril uncovers Troy's shocking secret! And will an Inhuman threaten Tony's city of tomorrow? Guest starring Jim Rhodes, the Iron Patriot!

Collecting *Iron Man (2012) #18-22* and *#20.INH*, written by Kieron Gillen and illustrated by Joe Bennett.



IRON MAN VOL. 5: RINGS OF THE MANDARIN PREMIERE HC

Malekith the Accursed, lord of the Dark Elves, has a problem with Iron Man. Then again, Malekith the Accursed has a problem with pretty much everyone on Earth. And when Malekith the Accursed strikes, blood will flow and darkness will fall — unless Iron Man can gain the upper hand! It's cutting-edge mortal science vs. the most arcane Asgardian science imaginable — all in a bath of blood. Plus: Which classic Marvel UK character returns in a reinvented form after the events of Revolutionary War? And how do the Mandarin's rings factor into this crisis? Iron Man vows to get to the bottom of things — assuming he lives!

Collecting Iron Man #23-28 — written by Kieron Gillen, and illustrated by Luke Ross and Joe Bennett.

Here are some recommended collections for new and longtime IRON MAN fans.
All are available in fine comic shops and bookstores now!

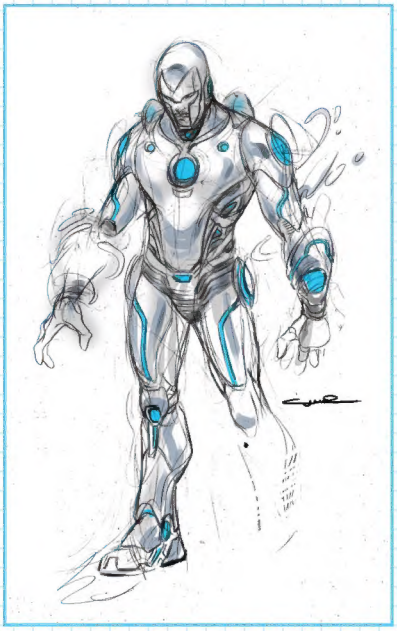
—Mark Paniccia

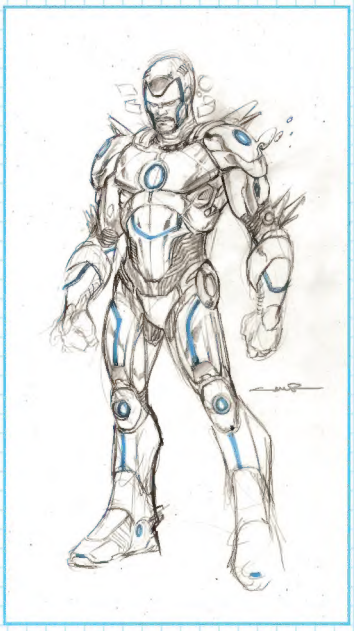
BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Hey readers! Resident shell head editor Mark Paniccia here. Thought you might like a peek behind the creative process of Marvel's latest (and most unexpected) version of Tony Stark.

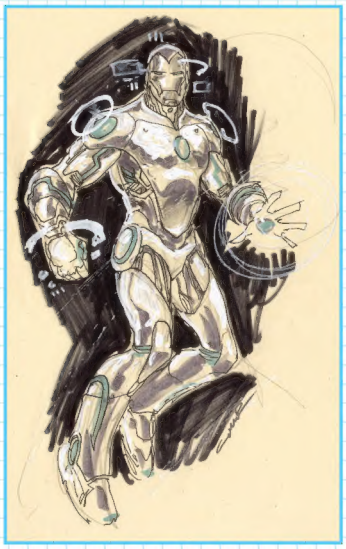
While Rick Remender was planning a crazy little thing that became AVENGERS AND X-MEN: AXIS, one of the ideas everyone here at MARVEL gravitated to was seeing bad guys become good guys and good guys become bad guys. With the right characters, attitudinal adjustments and creative teams, we knew some wild stories could spin out of the event…and seeing a more devious Tony Stark unleashed on the MARVEL UNIVERSE kind of gave us all goose bumps. What would happen if the golden Avenger wasn't so golden anymore? I couldn't see Tony Stark going completely evil, but I could see him go…chrome!

Let me explain. When I talked to writer Tom Taylor about the book, we thought an extreme version of a pre-heart-injury-Tony Stark personality was the way to go. As a hero, we know Tony as a good looking, stylish, confident yet fair and noble guy… but without that moral compass--that perspective he gained when Ho Yinsen sacrificed himself so Tony could escape his captors--he'd feel…SUPERIOR. He would be self-indulgent, vain and over the top. I'd seen a picture of a chromed luxury sports car and thought that was a pretty good example of over the top. We wanted to lean into the narcissism, selfishness and glam of this altered Tony Stark with a super-sleek, LED, futuristic armor, and the mirror-like quality of chrome fed into that perfectly.



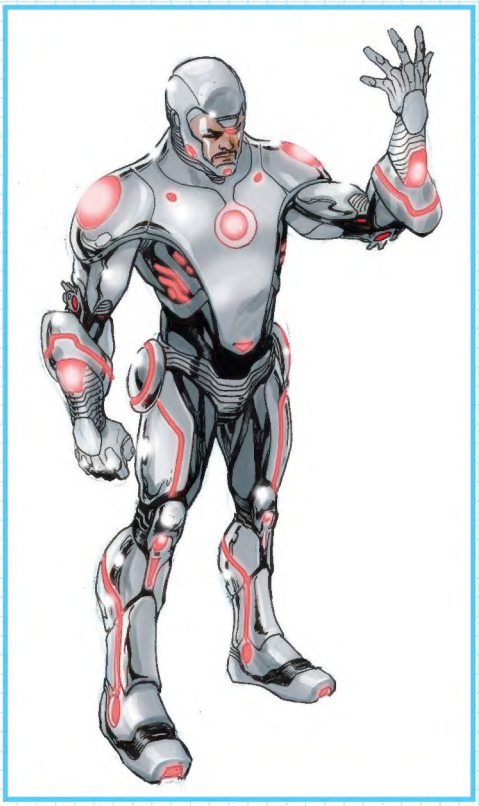


Artist Yildiray Çınar's first designs for SUPERIOR IRON MAN



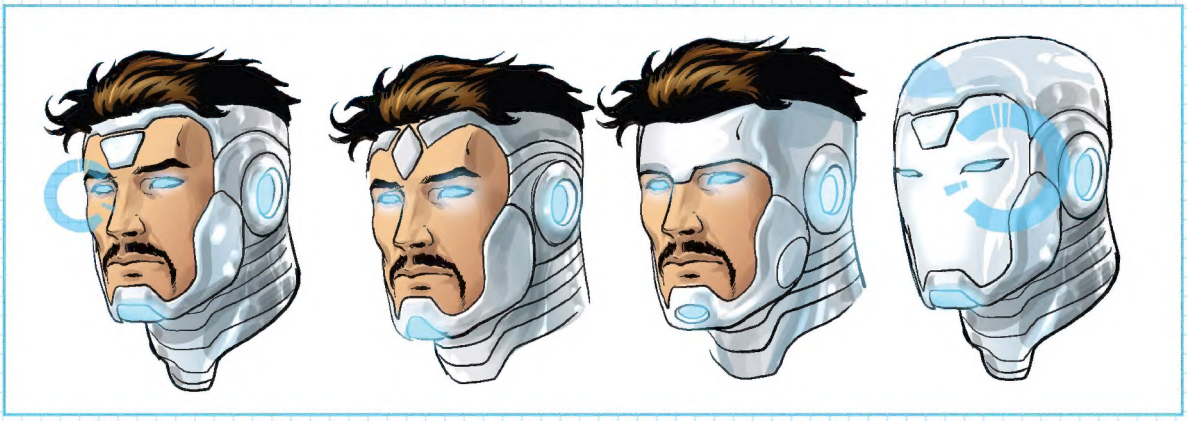
More early ideas from Yiliray

We told artist Yildiray Çınar and he promptly started enthusiastically sketching away at designs. We wanted to have blue LED stretch throughout and Tom had the idea that they could turn red when Tony was about to attack, giving him "a bit of menace."

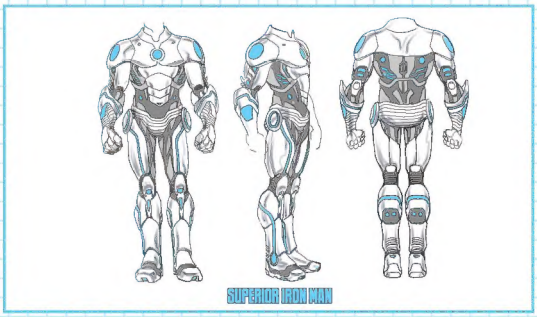


You wouldn't like Tony when he's angry (and glowing red)!

We asked Yildiray to add holographic elements and have the readouts and graphs surround Tony's head. I suggested Tony not even have a faceplate. Vain Tony would want everyone to see his beautiful face. When Yildiray did helmet designs, we decided to keep the option of having the faceplate, and Tom came up with the idea of using stealth graphene for protective measures. All of Yildiary's sketches were cool but we especially liked having the eyebrows hidden, making Tony look more distant and regal.



The final helmet design incorporated many elements seen in these four versions.



We ended up with a lot of great designs from Yildiray, all of which we wish we had the time and space to use but we're very happy with where we landed. The "Superior" armor still has a classic super hero vibe to it while messaging the stuff under the surface. Hope you dig it as much as we do.

Before I go I'd like to give a shout out to Summer Lacy who did an awesome job on the logo and recap design and Irene Y. Lee and Nelson Ribiero for their great design contributions.

Mark Paniccia
Senior Editor
MARVEL COMICS

NEXT ISSUE